

LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1992

\$1.00 PER ISSUE - 1427 WEST DICKENS AVE - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 17

BULL NAKANO WINS CMLL WORLD TITLE

In a match that can truly be called historic in several ways, Keiko "Bull" Nakano defeated Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales on Friday, June 12, 1992, at la Arena Mexico in Mexico City, to become the EMLL's initial CMLL World Luchadoras' Heavyweight Wrestling Champion.

One of the first things I should mention about the match that makes it historical is that it was the first time ever (as reported by the newspapers) that a ladies' match had been the main event on a major card, and definitely the first time at la Arena Mexico. Another is that apparently went five falls, which is the first time I have ever heard of that happening in Mexico.

With the kindness of Lucha Libre Weekly correspondent David Scherer, who watched a snowy satellite feed from his home at the same time it airs in Mexico, I have an idea of how the finishes of the match went. On the EMLL television show which aired Sunday, June 14th, which by the way was two hours, they showed the finishes of the falls:

- 1) Lola pinned Bull with a diving senton from off of the top rope (santon is the move where you splash your opponent back first.)
- 2) Bull pinned Lola with the german suplex hold (the belly to back suplex with a simultaneous bridge).
- 3) There was a double pin at this point. And, apparently, rather than restart the fall, they restarted the *whole match*. Then, in the third/first fall, Bull pinned Lola with her somersault leg bomb (i.e., Bobby Eaton's "Alabama Jam" from off of the top rope but added on a full forward somersault).
- 4) In the fourth/second fall, Lola was getting killed but made the face comeback and, after Bull ran her own head into the turnbuckles by mistake, Lola flipped over into the "jackknife" hold for a pinfall. A jackknife is where you grab the opponent's ankles and do a somersault flip so that you are horizontally on top of them, but your feet are at her head and vice versa, so both wrestlers are looking at the lights, and you are holding onto the ankles for leverage (got it?).
- 5) Lola got up to the top rope to do a Ricky Dragon-like (or Mil Mascaras-like) flying cross body block from over the top rope. She dove but Bull caught her and rolled through the hold so that she (Bull) ended up on top for the cover and the victory. Ric Flair and Barry Windham used to do that spot so well it was unbelievable. It is hard to grade a match from highlights but everything looked super. To me, Lola looks old (especially in the face) and run down after many years of not only wrestling but also booking, hiring, training, etc., of virtually every lady wrestler in Mexico. That makes a comparison with The Fabulous Moolah pretty fair. However, she is so over in Mexico as *being* ladies' wrestling there, as *the* luchadora, that putting her into the final to lose to Bull makes excellent sense and puts Bull, who has not toured Mexico before this month, and the belt itself way over.

As far as the rest of the television show, they opened with two matches from either the previous Sunday at la Arena Mexico or la Arena Coliseo. The tecnico team of Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla, The Blue Demon junior, and el Metalico defeated the trio of "los Angeles Blancos," who are made up of veteran wrestler el Angel Blanco junior, and two rookies called el Nuevo Angel Blanco and el Hijo del Angel Blanco. Sorry, I have no idea of who is related to whom. The point of this was to "introduce" los Angeles Blancos on television, as with loss of los Destruktors and los Dinamita, the EMLL is essentially promoting this trio (and not "la Nueva Ola Blanca") as a regular undercard trio. The finish of the third fall saw all three tecnicos do big topes and win by triple count out of the ring. Only the finishes of the three falls aired on television.

The finishes of one other match taped previously also aired, for an obvious reason. The team of la Bestia Salvaje, el Felino, and el Comando Ruso defeated the team of Atlantis, Ciclon Ramirez, and el Rayo de Jalisco junior in two straight falls as Salvaje pinned Atlantis in both falls. This was shown to set up a match between the two for this coming Friday night at la Arena Mexico (6/19) as Atlantis makes his 34th and final defense of his NWA World Middleweight Championship against la Bestia Salvaje, who is now clearly slated to win. Plans always have a way of changing, but that is the plan and could be a match of the year candidate in Mexico. The other main event on this coming Friday night's show will be explained in a couple of paragraphs as I discuss this week's odd TV main event.

Now I can get to the part of the show where they aired matches as per normal. The rudo team of Kung Fu (Reymundo de la Cuesta Veloz), el Felino (ex-"Babe" Casas), and captain la Fiera (Arturo Casco Poblano) defeated the tecnico team of The Blue Demon junior (Luis Rabadan junior), Kato Kung Lee I (Johnny Lezcano Smith), and captain Ringo Mendoza (Genaro Jacobo Contreras Gutierrez) two falls to one. The finish of the third fall saw la Fiera use his regular finisher, the "heel kick" as it's called in Japan, or more commonly the reverse spinning leg lariat, to knock down Mendoza for the pin. A couple of side notes about Mendoza. First, he is related to the young wrestlers Genaro Contreras junior and Genaro Contreras II, who I believe are his sons, but I am not sure exactly. I do believe they are using their "real names" as ring names so as to learn the ropes while not being billed as Ringo Mendoza junior. Also, the "Mendoza" name is not Ringo's real last name, nor is it the real last name of "Rey Mendoza," father of los Villanos, who is really Jorge Diaz. It seems that to Mexican fans, "Mendoza" is a credible or proper ring name to give to a legitimate native Mexican Indian. Tonight's match was rated as surprisingly good, at ***. By the way, the original Blue Demon (Luis Rabadan), who debuted in 1951, retired in 1989, and is 69 years old, announced that he was coming out of retirement to wrestle again. (If so, probably just for one match; I bet to help get his son over; junior is nowhere near as over as he should be considering the considerable family heritage he has).

The semifinal of the card saw Atlantis, el Faraon (Jose Luis Barrajas Fernandez), and Salomon Grondy (is that his real name?) defeating the team of el Brazo (Juan Alvarado Nieves), el Brazo de Plata (Jose "Pepé" Alvarado Nieves), and el Negro Casas (Jose Casas Ruiz junior) two falls to one. Last week, el Brazo de Oro had been turned face, and this week his brothers followed, refusing to help true rudo Casas. The finish of the match saw el Brazo de Plata get disgusted at Casas, body slam him, and then give him a diving body press or splash from off of the top rope. Then, Grondy followed with a splash from off of the second rope onto Casas and the cover for the pinfall. Then, all five other men in the match turned on Casas. Heel referee "el Gato Montini" (Javier Medina) tried his best to save Casas but he too was given a splash off of the top rope by Plata. This may be a good excuse to take Plata off of the road (they can suspend him for splashing a referee) so that he can try to get his weight under control. Super Luchas said that, one way or the other, a beautifully worded phrase, that the end of el Brazo de Plata's career was near. This was said to be a fair match, but all story and very little match, and was rated at ** 1/2.

The main event may be very confusing to explain. The EMLL matched up four parejas tag teams with one rudo and one tecnico apiece. M. S. 1 would team with Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense. Pierroth junior would team with Lizmark. El Brazo de Oro, who last week had turned face on Sangre CHicana, were a third team. And, el Rayo de Jalisco junior and el Pirata Morgan were a team. Tonight, four of the men, one from each team, wrestled in a battle royal. The first two eliminated would mean their teams would face each other in the first match, and the two left standing would go to the second match. In the battle royal, first Vampiro and then Rayo were pinned, so their teams faced each other in match one, while the two victors were Pierroth junior and el Brazo de Oro.

In the first of the two "increible" matches, M. S. 1 and Vampiro lost two straight falls to Rayo and Pirata. Rayo pinned Vampiro clean in the first fall, while the two rudos (M. S. 1 and Morgan) who are normal trio partners would not tag in against each other. In the second fall, both rudos teamed up to beat the snot out of the two faces, and the two rudos pinned Vampiro. Then M. S. 1 kept asking Pirata to pin Rayo, but Pirata wouldn't. M. S. 1 picked up Rayo to body slam him and out of nowhere Pirata drop-kicked Rayo's back, causing Rayo to land full force on top of M. S. 1 and three seconds later Rayo had a win. This furthers along the "Infernales break-up" scenario begun about five weeks ago.

Then, in the last match, Lizmark and Pierroth junior won two straight falls from CHicana and el Brazo de Oro. The script was the same. The tecnicos decided the first fall as Lizmark pinned Brazo de Oro clean with a "huracarrana" while the rudos wouldn't tag in against each other. In the second fall, the rudos beat the snot out of the faces, but Lizmark came back, got el Brazo de Oro into a quebradora (titi-a-whirl-back-breaker) and made Oro submit. Lizmark then left the ring immediately. CHicana and Pierroth seized this opportunity to pound away at el Brazo de Oro before Lizmark returned to save. El Brazo de Oro then challenged Sangre CHicana to a hair match, which will take place on Friday, June 19th, likely with el Brazo de Oro winning. The EMLL wants to get this angle and the Salvaje/Atlantis angle out of the way before the wave of Japanese men wrestlers (which may well include the highly coveted Ishinriki as "Hirata") comes in on Friday, June 26th. Later, after the AAA section, I will get to the discussion of why this did not air on television.

In some late news, I do have the result this week of the card at la Arena Mexico held Sunday, June 14th, 1992. Sorry I totally missed last week's Sunday results. This week, los Intocables del Ring (Masakre, Jaque Mate, and captain Pierroth junior) won a non-title match in three falls over el Faraon, Lizmark, and el Rayo de Jalisco junior. The finish of the third fall saw Pierroth junior foul el Rayo de Jalisco junior behind the referee's back and gain the pinfall. El Faraon was said to have been really bad in this match (he's clearly not at the level of the other five). Jaque Mate even tore off Lizmark's mask after the match. In the semifinal, Black Magic (Norman Smiley), el Hijo de Tinieblas (the one of the three members of the Traveling Tinieblas Circus that Paco Alonso really wants to use), and Super Astro (not jumped to AAA yet) defeated el Hijo del Gladiador (who returned after a long absence), el Angel Blanco junior,

and el Medico Asesino junior in three falls. Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales saved face by teaming with Lady Apache and Xochitl Hamada to defeat Bull Nakano, Kaoru Maeda, and Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos in three falls. I would have *loved* to have seen Bull and Martha in the same ring. The segunda had el Guerrero Samurai II and el Gran Apache I over el Panico and el Halcon Negro junior in three falls. And the inicial saw Babe Richard and Master defeat el Tauro junior and Ultimatum in three falls.

Since I am on late news, let me say first that I was erroneously told that the "Zeus" who lost his mask to "Transformer" at la Arena Mexico was ex-*Babe* Richard. In fact, he was ex-*Roy* Richard, the same one who was a former UWA World Welterweight Champion and feuded with Yoshihiro Asai in both Mexico and in Japan. His real name is still correct, though, as Andres Solano, age 42, from Orizaba, Veracruz. Now on to the UWA card from el Toreo from Sunday, June 14th, 1992. In the main event, el Villano III, Mil Mascaras, and Enrique Vera defeated Canek, the returning "el Loco Zandokan" (out over three years after a car accident), Canek, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). El Villano III pinned The Killer clean in the third fall. This sets up next week's (6/21) main event as el Villano III challenged for and got a shot at The Killer's UWA World Junior Heavyweight Championship. P. S., Mil pinned Canek to win the first fall and Zandokan, to re-establish him at the top level, pinned Mil cleanly to win the second fall. The semifinal went to Silver King, el Texano, and el Tigre Canadiense (Mike Lozansky), as they defeated Bull Pain (Rick Gantner, making his second tour of Mexico), Miguelito Perez junior, and Ricky Santana. Bull Pain fouled Tigre in the third fall to cause the automatic DQ, and to set up a feud between the two. The segunda saw los Tortugillos Karatekas II, III, and IV (Donatelo, Miguel Angel {the best one}, and Leonardo) defeated Ricky Boy (not jumped yet), el Scorpio junior, and el Bucanero junior (a famous Guadalaajaran wrestler who had one tour of Japan in 1991). The opener saw la Ola Lila (Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, Pimpinela Escarlata, and May Flowers) defeat Kendo Star (last UWA match), Lasser, and Momotaro ("Monkey Magic Wakita" in Japan) in three falls.

Back to EMLL news, on Saturday, June 13th, at la Pista Arena Revolucion, el Rayo de Jalisco junior (Maxmino Linares junior) defeated el Egipcio (Jose Luis Hernandez) to win the Mexican National Heavyweight Championship. This begins Rayo's third title reign. Egipcio's first and so far only title reign had begun with an upset win over Rayo back on April 12, 1991, but in my opinion he was never much of a championship-caliber wrestler.

On June 10th at la Arena San Lopez Mateos in suburban Tlanepantla, Mexico, a joint card featuring wrestlers from the EMLL, AAA, and UWA was held. I do not have details, just results, but some interesting match-ups took place. In the main event, los Nuevos Fantásticos {Shogun (UWA), Blackman II (UWA), and Kendo Star (AAA)} won the "la Arena Lopez Mateos" trios titles by defeating Smog, el Ojo Diabolico, and King Imperio in three falls. The semifinal saw el Dandy (EMLL), Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense (EMLL), and el Hijo del Santo (AAA) defeat Canek (UWA), The Blue Panther (AAA), and el Pirata Moragn (EMLL) in three falls. In the tercera, the all-UWA team of el Villano IV, el Villano V, and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada defeated the team of Jose "el Negro" Casas (EMLL), Rambo (UWA), and Doctor Wagner junior (UWA) in three falls. Rambo and Wagner are being heavily courted by AAA. The segunda saw a rare rudo match by Lasser, teaming with el Macho II; they lost in three falls to Cristero and Formula.

On June 7th, at la Arena Naucalpan, CMLL World Welterweight Champions America's protege el Goleador retained the "La Arena Naucalpan" Middleweight Championship by defeating el Ku Klux Klan III in three falls.

On May 31st, at la Arena Coliseo, los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo de Oro, el Brazo de Plata, and el Brazo) defeated la Mano Negra, el Jalisco, and CHavo Guerrero two falls to one. The semifinal saw Gargola el Sultan, Ulises Plus, and el Supremo I defeat el Metalico, la Aguila Solitaria, and Javier "CHamaco" Valaguez in three falls. The opening three matches involved fourteen wrestlers. A battle royal was held. The first two out would face each other in a singles match, the next four would then pick teams and captain them. In the opener, Zuleyma defeated fellow tecnica Selene in a non-title match in three falls. The segunda saw Neftali, Josseline, and Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos defeat Janeth, la Sirenita, and Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales in three falls. And the tercera saw Lady Apache, la Olimpica, and Xochitl Hamada defeat Tania la Guerrerilla, la Pantera Surena, and Kaoru Maeda (who's getting over great since her 5/17 debut at la Arena Coliseo) in three falls.

Also on May 31st, a card was held at la Arena San Lorenzo. A confusing all-six-men in the ring triangular parejas match was held. The teams were el Angel Blanco junior/el Medico Asesino junior, CHavo Guerrero/el Hijo del Solitario (last match before his month-long suspension), and Kato Kung Lee I/la Aguila de Plata. Asesino/Blanco defeated Lee/Plata easily, then defeated Guerrero/Solitario when Solitario turned rudo on CHavo. The semifinal saw el Celestial and Lasser from the UWA defeat Casandro and el Hijo del Diablo in three falls. The tercera had Cien Fuegos and Octavio Gaona defeat el Hombre de Bronce and The Bird Boy I in three falls. The segunda saw Pesadilla and el Negro Paraita defeat el Gran Kardo and el Rayo Tapatio I in three falls. And the inicial saw el Infernal defeat el Caballero Cruzado in three falls.

One brief note. On the May 29th card at la Arena Coliseo that was taped (it was pre-empted on Galavision by the debut of the AAA, la Aguila Solitaria and Javier "CHamaco" Valaguez won two of three falls from el Guerrero Negro and el Septiembre Negro junior, who had a nice back-cover interview and poster in a recent *Super Luchas*.

UWA

Here are some results from the UWA, including information from their latest television show and taping:

* Thursday, May 28, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, saw the regular weekly Thursday night UWA card. The main event saw Transformer defeat Zeus in a hair versus hair match. Transformer, as I have gone over before, used to be Kendo. As Kendo, he had lost his mask in 1987 to The Blue Panther at el Auditorio Municipal in Tijuana, Baja California Norte. In Mexico, wrestlers who lose their mask are not permitted to put on another mask and go through the same scenario all over again; it is considered cheapening to the mask match and to the fans. Lately this rule has been ignored in a very small number of cases (mostly when the wrestler is simply not getting over without his mask). An example is Transformer, who on September 22, 1991, "debuted" under that ring name. To lose his mask in this match versus Zeus would reveal the "scam" they had pulled over on the fans. I personally do not mind the concept of putting on another mask as long as it is done sparingly. Anyway, Transformer won in a strange way. Zeus fouled him right in front of UWA junior referee "el Chocolate." In essence, to the fans, Zeus "gave away" his own mask. I think the finish is cheaper than the Kendo-under-a-new-mask scenario. Zeus turned out to be the guy who wrestled as "Babe Richard," real name Andres Solano, from Orizaba, Veracruz. The semifinal at the arena saw Silver King, el Texano, and el Villano III defeat Bam Bam Bigelow, el Gigante Warrior, and The Black Scorpio (Charles Skaggs) in three falls. The third fall saw tecnico Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, rudo el Signo, and la Aguila de Plata, who normally wrestles for the EMLL, defeat Jose "el Negro" Casas and los Cazadores del Cabezas I y II (The Head Hunters A and B) in three falls. The segunda had el Demonio Arrieta and el Engendro over el Celestial and el Coloso in two straight falls. El Demonio Arrieta pinned el Celestial in two straight and after the match el Celestial challenged Arrieta to a mask (Celestial) versus hair (Arrieta) match for the next Thursday, June 4th. They had that match and el Celestial won. Like Transformer, el Celestial used to be someone who lost his mask, in this case Blackman. Ironically, for all you trivia buffs, just like Kendo, Blackman lost his mask in 1987 in Tijuana to The Blue Panther. The inicial of the Pista card saw el Ninja Sasuke (known as Masa Michinoku in Japan) pinning Momotaro (known as Monkey Magic Wakita in Japan) in three falls.

* Saturday, May 30, 1992, at tiny la Arena Apatlaco in Mexico City saw a mega-star UWA main event. Mil Mascaras and his younger brother el Sicodelico (who has since jumped to the AAA) were booked to face Canek and Fishman. The only trouble with this booking is that Fishman jumped to the AAA before the match. So Fishman was replaced by CHicano Power junior (who also has since jumped to the AAA). So you figure CHicano Power (nice mask) is in there to do the job right? Wrong! In the third fall, Sicodelico did a tope suicida (I know that's hard to believe but he did it) onto CHicano Power and they were both counted out of the ring, leaving only Mascaras and Canek to decide things. Mil gets the upper hand and goes to the top rope to execute his patented cross-body block from off of the top rope onto Canek. Canek moves out of the way at the last moment and instead the referee, "el Acapulco," is nailed by Mil. Normally the referee in Mexico will disqualify the wrestler who dives onto him, not the guy who moves, but since el Acapulco saw it coming, he disqualified Canek and raised the Rodriguez brothers' hands. The semifinal saw el Coloso, el Matematico I, and el Matematico III defeat las Bestias Negras I, II, and III two falls to one. Originally, la Ola Lila were scheduled as the rudos in this match, but they weren't there for some reason and las Bestias took their place. The tercera saw Arafat, King Xadu, and el Gran Guerrero defeat Lethal, la Espuela de Oro I, and el Matematico II in three falls. The segunda saw el Ilegal and la Amenaza Azteca over el Condor Azul and el Fuyio in three falls. And the inicial saw el Gran Calcuta and The Black Boy I over Tonka and el Capitan Furia in three falls.

* Sunday, May 31st, 1992, at el Toreo, I went over briefly two issues back. The return of los Puertorriquenos (Miguelito Perez junior, Ricky Santana, and el Gigante Warrior {Blade Butch Masters}) was not totally successful. In separate matches, two won and one lost. El Gigante Warrior teamed with The Black Scorpio and el Signo to lose to Canek, Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) in three falls as Canek pinned Scorpio in the third fall. The semifinal saw the new "pareja atomica" of Eddy Guerrero and el Hijo del Santo team with el Villano III to defeat The Head Hunters and Jose "el Negro" Casas in three falls. Villano III made Casas submit with a "de a caballo" (camel clutch) hold in the third fall. Perez and Santana teamed with Kahos I to defeat el Villano IV, el Villano V, and Enrique Vera in three falls. The segunda had Shu, el Guerrero, el Engendro, and The Babe Face I defeating el Coloso, el Sicodelico, and el Villano I in three falls. And the inicial also went three falls as Lasser, el Celestial, and el Ninja Sasuke defeated Super Brazo, Momotaro, and Okano (known as Sakigake Gantestu in Japan).

* Friday, June 5th, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in the Mexico City suburb of the same name, the UWA held its weekly television taping. It aired Saturday, June 13, 1992, on Imevision. The inicial and the main event did not air. The inicial was Bat Blue versus Luis Lopez junior. The main event was Canek, Rambo, and Doctor Wagner junior versus los Puertorriquenos (Miguelito Perez junior, Ricky Santana, and el Gigante Warrior). The three that aired were as follows. The card's segunda was the television opener. Transformer (ex-Kendo) and el Tigre Canadiense (Mike Lozansky) defeated Ricky Boy (who will be jumping to the AAA soon) and Casandro in three fair falls with both tecnicos making both rudos submit simultaneously in the third fall. This was rated at **. The card's semifinal was the middle match on television. Shu, el Guerrero teamed with the father-and-son team of Scorpio I and Scorpio junior

to lose to the team of el Villano III, Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, and Eddy Guerrero in three falls when el Villano III pinned Shu cleanly (what a surprise!) in the third fall. Jose "el Negro" Casas had been booked for this show and advertised by the UWA for this show, but it was his start night with EMLL. El Scorpio I replaced him. This was said to be a good match, ** 3/4. The main event was la Ola Lila (Pimpinela Escarlata, May Flowers, and Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna) versus Silver King, el Texano, and el Celestial. Talk about a name that does not belong on a list—el Celestial. The tecnicos won when all three tecnicos made all three rudos submit simultaneously in the third fall to simultaneous quebradoras. By the way, they had all new graphics on the show; they were said to be much improved, as was a new opening. The announcers for the second straight week were Alcatraz (who's actually pretty good) and el Principe Valiente (who isn't). All in all it was said to be a much improved show over recent UWA efforts.

* On Wednesday, June 10th, 1992, el Hijo del Diablo put up his mask versus the hair of Resplandor at the "el Palenque de la Feria" gymnasium in Celaya, Guanajuato. Diablito won in three falls, but it was said to be a fairly easy win for him. I don't have any other results from that card.

* I have only one result also from the UWA card June 4th at la Pista Arena Revolucion; as mentioned above, el Celestial defended his mask versus the hair of el Demonio Arrieta successfully. The same arena's card from the next Thursday, June 11th, had a Canek versus Ricky Santana singles match that I bet was very good. The semifinal was Eddy Guerrero, el Villano III, and el Villano I versus The Babe Face I, el Espanto junior, and Miguelito Perez junior. The tercera had la Ola Lila again (Reyna, Flowers, and Escarlata) versus Kendo Star (in his final UWA match), el Hijo de Super Zan, and el Ojo de Tigre. The segunda had Lasser and el Dragon CHino I versus el Mohicano I and Mister Condor. If there was an initial, it was not listed in the newspapers I saw.

* Also on Thursday, June 11th, the UWA featured a card at la Arena Toluca in the city of Toluca, capital of the state of Mexico. Here the main event was el Tigre Canadiense and Enrique Vera versus Doctor Wagner junior and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). The semifinal had a non-title match for los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) versus el Sismo, el Rey Cobra, and el Azabache Negro. The segunda had el Vagabundo and el Celestial versus Casandro and Zeus. The inicial fetured el Gran Calcuta versus el Pequeno Audaz.

* Friday, May 12th, 1992, saw what I believe was the television taping for next Saturday (June 20th)'s television show. The main event had Canek and Doctor Wagner junior versus Ricky Santana and Miguelito Perez junior. The semifinal saw el Villano I, Eddy Guerrero, and el Villano III face los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (Signo, Navarro, and Power) in a non-title match. The tercera has Kahos I, el Scorpio I, and el Espanto junior versus el Celestial, el Colsoo, and el Tigre Canadiense. The segunda has Lasser (in a rare match as a rudo) teaming with el Ojo de Tigre to face Ricky Boy and el Hijo del Diablo. The incial had Takeda booked against el Gran Petroneo. I have no idea which of these matches will be the three to air on television.

* The traditional Saturday night UWA card at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos, featured Canek and Enrique Vera versus Miguelito Perez junior and Ricky Santana in the main event. That's the only match I know of. Canek can easily keep up with Perez and Santana but Vera would drag this one down.

* The main event for Sunday, June 14th, 1992, at the "el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos" bull ring in subrbn Naucalkpan in the state of Mexico featured the return of Mil Mascaras to el Toreo for a brief tour. Mil teamed with el Villano III and Enrrigue Vera to take on Canek, The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) and "el Loco Zandokan," sometimes spelled "Sandokan." I don't know the whole story but Zandokan was one of the UWA's top three heels in 1989 when he was injured and has been out of action for three years. The magazines used to say great things about him. His gimmick is a "crazy pirate," similar to el Pirata Morgan in some ways.

* June 15th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla in the city and state of the same name pretty nearly reruns the main event of el Toreo. This time, Mil Mascaras, el Villano III, and Enrrigue Vera will face Canek, el Loco Zandokan, and Doctor Wagner junior. This match, with minor alterations, will main event at least one UWA show a night from Sunday June 14th to Saturday June 20th.

* Finally in UWA news, Lasser will make his 18th defense of the UWA World Lightweight Championship (that he won in Puebla February 5, 1991) versus el Espanto IV. I do not know whether el Espanto IV and el Espanto junior (current UWA World Welterweight Champion) are related. Many years ago there were three "Espantos" and I do not know who descended from whom. Unless I miss my guess, el Espanto IV is one of the two youngsters who debuted September 1990 and have been working "las arenas chicas" (tiny arenas) around Mexico City ever since. Look for Lasser to retain his title easily in this one. Two weeks earlier, on Tuesday, June 2nd, Lasser had made his 17th title defense a successful one by defeating el Loco Valentino in three falls. That match was held at Leon, Guanajuato, in an arena called "la Arena Isabel." Of all the current champions in Mexico, except Mil Mascaras and his IWA World Title from 1975, only one wrestler has made more successful defenses of his belt—Atlantis has made 33 successful defenses of his NWA World Middleweight Championship in a timeframe stretching from August 1, 1990, to the present.

AAA

Before I get to a rundown of this week's television product. Here is what happened at the arenas this past weekend:

* There was a card held in Leon, Guanajuato on Friday, June 12th. It was not taped for television. The main event had Cien Caras, Universo Dos Mil, and "el CHacho" Herodes versus el Sicodelico (in his AAA debut), la Mascara Sagrada, and el Fantasma. The semifinal had The Ice Killer, el Indomito, and Heavy Metal (Erick "el Canelo" Casas) versus el Volador, el Misterioso, and Katana (ex- "Leon CHino" in his AAA debut). The tercera saw the mini-super-estrellas back, with some ruditos debuting. Octagoncito, la Mascarita Sagrada, and la Aguilita Solitaria faced el Espectrito (junior), la Parkita, and el Picudito. The segunda had el Halcon 78, el Falcon, and el Inmortal versus the debuting "earthquake trio" of Terremoto, Maremoto, and Hectomare. The inicial had Kid Boxer (ex-Full Contact) and el Matematico IV (in his AAA debut) versus el Eslabon Perdido and la Barba Negra. I would really have liked to have seen the semifinal and tercera on this card.

* The card that was taped for television aired from "la Arena Jose Maria Arteaga" in Queretaro, Queretaro. It was originally supposed to be from la Arena Jalapa in Jalapa, Veraacruz, but they moved it two days before the show for unspecified reasons. The main event saw el Hijo del Santo, Octagon, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo versus la Parca, The Blue Panther, and Fishman. The semifinal had el Angel Azteca, el Solar I, and Kendo Star (in his AAA debut) versus los Nuevos Destructores del Ring (Rocco Valente, his brother Tony Arce, and el Vulcano). The tercera had el Brazo de Platino, his much fatter brother Super Brazo, and The Rose (in his debut match anywhere) versus Superstar, el Apolo, and el Galactico. El Apolo is not Apolo Dantes. The segunda had el Picudo, Bleda, and Atila junior versus Winners, Super Kiss, and Super Kalo. Reader David Scherer of Marmora, New Jersey, who tried to watch the show on satellite, said his feed was pretty bad, and he couldn't confidently report results on the matches that aired. It appeared that the rudos were disqualified in the main event when Octagon's mask was pulled off in the third fall, but heel ref el Suspenders (real ring name el Tirantes) raised the rudos' hands anyway. And it appeared the TV opener went to Winners's team, as he did another psycho dive at the end of the third fall. By the way, in this week's Cartometro, or poularity poll, la Parca was named as the number one rudo and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo as the number one tecnico, so it shows you what a push they are giving and will give la Parca. Off television, the opener saw el Marques junior and el Bandido versus el Canalla I and el Angel Mortal. That might have been a good match as both el Angel Mortal and el Marques junior have impressed me a lot in the past.

* The AAA managed to book two shows on Saturday, June 13th, in the Mexico City area. These were the same arenas they had booked the prior Saturday night. The main event at la Arena Apatiaco in Mexico City had Winners, el Volador, and el Misterioso (what a high-flying team!) versus Quarterback, Superbowl, and Atila junior. And the main event in Xochimilco at la Arena Xochimilco had el Giro, el Colorado, and el Fantasma versus los Neuvos Desturctores del Ring (Arce, Valente, and Vulcano).

* I have no other cards for them but as you can see more poeple have jumped here. This week's list includes el Sicodelico, The Rose, el Apolo, Super Kiss, el Bandido, el Canalla I, el Matematico IV, la Barba Negra, and two I mentioned last week, Katana (ex-Leon CHino) and el Indomito. It is rumored el Hijo del Diablo may be in soon also.

* Now on to this week's television. The show was taped Friday, June 5th, 1992, at el Auditorio Municipal in Leon, Guanajuato, the smaller of the two cities in the home town of the 1991-2 Mexican Football champions. The lighting and graphics were much improved over last week's show, though the miking of the crowd was only fair, the editing stunk, and the miking of the ring also stunk. It was interesting to note that the EMLL announcers, Miguel Linares and Raul Sarmiento, did the voiceover on the Cartometro popularity poll. In that poll, Pedro "el Perro" Agauyo was the top tecnico, followed by Octagon. Among the rudos, Cien Caras and Fuerza Guerrera were one-two. The mini-super-estrellas once again had la Mascarita Sagrada and el Espectrito (junior) on top. The micro-super-estrellas, as may be into eternity, were led by Micro Konnan el Barbaro and Micro Fuerza Guerrera. The top pareja was el Misterioso and el Volador. The top trio again was los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Dos Mil). The lance of the week was Winners's Eddy-Guerrero-like Air Pillman cross body block off of the top rope. The "big news" of the week was Universo Dos Mil's winning from la Mascara Sagrada the Mexican National Light Heavyweight Championship.

The tercera of the card was the television opener, as el Giro, el Colorado, and Super Star defeated Super Bowl, Quarter Back, and el Reptil two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 18:41. The first fall saw Super Bowl make Super Star submit after a shoulder block with his shoulder pads on. The second fall saw el Giro pin all three rudos after a diving body press with a half twist off of the top rope. The tecnicos won in the third fall in 4:59. After the match, the football players grabbed a tire iron to threaten the tecnicos with. Super Bowl and Quarter Back looked very strange, I guess, as did Reptil, but it may just be because they are new to me. I am reminded that el Super Maquina, one of the rare luchadores to pin Mil Mascaras in a singles match in Mexico, was way over with a very similar costume and mask. El Giro and el Colorado have now turned their gimmick into whatever they were and into full-fledged chickens. I am not sure I get it but they are mostly on the undercard anyway. **. Not bad but not great.

The second match featured the card's semifinal. In that match, the death trio of la Parca (a Skeletor gimmick), Ice Killer (a Jason the Terrible gimmick), and captain Karis la Momia (a mummy gimmick) defeated el Misterioso, el Volador, and captain el Solar I in a total elapsed time of only 12:53. The first fall went 5:44 before Misterioso wrapped up a tecnico victory by giving Ice Killer a simple tope (flying head butt). The rudos took only 1:46 to win the second fall as all the heels defeated all the rudos pretty much all in a row. The third fall ended in a real surprise as la Parca pinned el Solar I with a poorly done inside cradle at 4:23. Obviously, la Parca is getting the huge push. I thought this was the best match on the show, as particularly el Volador and el Misterioso looked both very solid and spectacular. It did not have the cathartic finish of the main event and had the surprise clean rudo win, but was a solid match technically. ***. By the way, somebody tell Doctor Alfonso Morales that the inside cradle is not an invention of Lex Luger (honest to god, that's what he said). Morales was WAY off on tonight's show, particularly in the third fall, when he did not even have which fall it was down right.

The main event saw some "legendary" wrestlers on top. Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo captained the tecnico team. He was joined by el Hijo del Santo and la Mascara Sagrada. This was, after some hemming and hawing, Santito's debut match in the AAA. The rudo team was captained by one of the very best wrestlers in all the world, Fuerza Guerrera. On his team was the veteran Fishman and the new Mexican National Light Heavyweight Champion, Universo Dos Mil. This match featured the renewal, once again, of the ancient rivalry between Fishman and Aguayo. You've got to hand it to somebody, whether it be the wrestlers or the promoters or whomever. Aguayo and Fishman headlined against each other and sold out in the decade of the 1970's, and in the decade of the 1980's, and here they were in mid-1992 on top in a main event trio tag in front of a sellout crowd. Maybe it's true that not all the crowd was drawn by these two, but you can't deny the longevity and success of booking of this long-term feud. Anyway, to the match. The tecnicos won in 16:31 in three falls. All three rudos made la Mascara Sagrada submit to the "patented Cien Caras body wrap" (well, that's what Doctor Morales called it) in 5:48. The second fall went 5:06 before Fuerza submitted to a quebradora (tilt-a-whirl over-the-knee backbreaker). In the finishing sequence, el Hijo del Santo demonstrated once again why he has the worst "leg bomb" in the world today. The third fall went 5:37 before Universo Dos Mil was disqualified for unmasking la Mascara Sagrada (a cheap finish). The Triple A has really trotted out the screw-job and cheap finishes in their first four shows, haven't they? And, Aguayo and Fishman still get heat. El Hijo del Santo did the old Gori Guerrero dive sequence (that the original el Santo made even more famous) by diving and doing a rolling headbutt onto an opponent in the middle of the ring and continuing to roll through and running two steps and diving onto Fuerza Guerrera outside the ring with a tope suicida. Incredible. The match was fair and had a lot of heat but it did expose Santito's limitations and showed again why Fuerza Guerrera is just about the best in the world at what he does and the style he does it in. ** 3/4. Oh, Perro even did a (fair) tope suicida!

Now, it's time to discuss the television situation with Galavision. The answer is, "I don't know." Galavision specifically ran a graphic before the show last week (the one that aired 6/7 in the USA) at 4:29 pm PDT saying that the EMLL would return next week. Obviously, it wasn't there. I personally had put two and two together to come up with the conclusion that both would air. They both went up on satellite on Sunday the 7th in Mexico. Both shows were shortened to ninety minutes. The Galavision graphic aired. And I had been informed that the Triple A had secured the rights to the main Sunday slot on Galavision television. Therefore, I added things up and figured that the Triple A would air first and that the EMLL would air second, or maybe vice versa, but that the two would both air and back to back to boot. Obviously, that did not happen. Why it did not happen I don't know. I hope to find out for next issue, one way or another.

I have enjoyed the AAA shows so far. I thought the first two were better than the next two. But already, even though the Triple A has drafted some of the very best workers in the world, I still miss the EMLL. I especially miss them now as they are running far more interesting angles and issues than the Triple A is (at least for the next five weeks, too). Both shows that went up on satellite this weekend were two hours long. The EMLL show went up on one satellite Saturday night and another one on Sunday morning. The AAA went up at a regular time (1:00 pm EDT) on its regular slot. Therefore, I suspect that what will air next week will be the last four matches of the five-match card from la Arena Jose Maria Arteaga that I reviewed one page back. I had been led to believe that both might air and now it looks as if that won't happen. I guess that makes the people who can get tapes from off of the satellite of the EMLL some "very popular guys around town," as the local saying goes.

Therefore, if any of my readers wants to initiate a trading service for either the EMLL or the UWA tapes, please let me know. I personally have access due a very kind source to the UWA shows on a periodic basis. I am getting access to the EMLL shows, although often the quality is not so good as the excellent quality I have of the UWA. Due to my work situation, copying tapes has become a little more difficult but I can still trade on a delayed basis. Also, if any reader who wishes to be the source and be listed here as the source for either the AAA (one week early), the EMLL, or the UWA, please let me know and I will then print your address, etc., so that any interested readers (of which there will be quite a few) can contact you. I also do have access to current Japanese tapes of the New Japan and All Japan promotions for those of you who have asked (a few) and am willing to trade those as well.

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: LA BESTIA SALVAJE

Actually, I probably have less information about this week's subject than I have had on anyone I have tackled. La Bestia Salvaje's real name is Juan Manuel Carillo Rodriguez. He was born in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, on February 11, 1962. He debuted under his real name at the small independent arenas (of which there are tons) around Mexico City on June 12, 1983. As he got better, he came to the attention of the EMLL. He was hired and offered a contract in 1985, and sent to train at the official EMLL gym at la Arena Mexico's fifth floor under the guidance of head EMLL trainer Jose "Pepé" Casas. Casas, dad of el Felino, Heavy Metal, and Jose "el Negro" Casas junior, also trained his own sons, and you can see much of the Casas style and mannerisms in Salvaje. Finally, with the additional help of his original idols Sangre Chicana and la Fiera (actually, la Fiera in his prime is the closest thing to a fairly exact comparison of today's Salvaje with a past expert), a new EMLL tecnico "idolo" was set to debut. "La Bestia Salvaje" was born at la Arena Mexico at a card in June 1986. Salvaje got good soon, and was promoted into title matches as a rudo welterweight very soon. On September 3, 1988, at la Pista Arena Revolucion, la Bestia Salvaje defeated la Aguila Solitaria to win the Mexican National Welterweight Championship. Don't tell anybody but the real reason the belt was taken off Solitaria was so that Aguila could defeat Fuerza Guerrera for the more prestigious NWA World Welterweight Championship, which after several tries, Solitaria did on June 2, 1989. Salvaje was always good but lost in EMLL circles as Antonio Pena pushed flashier masked wrestlers. For a brief time in 1990, Salvaje and Pierroth junior won and held the Mexican National Parejas Championships. Still, Salvaje's push was not commensurate with his talent. Finally, in a move that at the time seemed nothing special, Salvaje was picked as Yoshihiro Asai's "sacrificial lamb" opponent for Asai's quarterly triumphal tour of Japan. However, Asai essentially let then-booker Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada of his plans to jump from UWA to EMLL (and therefore from Universal in Japan to SWS) right as the tour started. All five matches between Salvaje and Asai on that tour, including two singles matches in Korakuen Hall, ended with clean Salvaje wins, to the shock of Tokyo wrestling fans. Even though that tour was of Japan, it marked the beginning of a meteoric rise in Salvaje's career (and may indeed have been a fully planned scenario to give Asai a big opponent in his new EMLL home for both matches in Japan and Mexico). Salvaje came back to Mexico and was temporarily pushed as part of a trio team with Tony Arce and el Vulcano. Soon though, decisions were made at EMLL to push Salvaje as a lead singles wrestler, and Rocco Valente gained Salvaje's spot in the "los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring" trio team. Salvaje was then pushed to the hilt. On February 14, 1992, at la Arena Mexico, he won the hair of Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla in a match and a feud that were far better than expected. Four weeks later, he upset Kato Kung Lee 1 clean as a sheet to win another hair match. And now, on Friday, June 19, 1992, at la Arena Mexico, he is scheduled to defeat Atlantis and win the NWA World Middleweight Championship. A natural middleweight in Mexico, at about 172 cm (5'8") and 84 kg (185.2 lbs), Salvaje has become within the past year one of the five best wrestlers, in my opinion, in all of Mexico (along with Fuerza Guerrera, Silver King, Jose "el Negro" Casas, Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai)).

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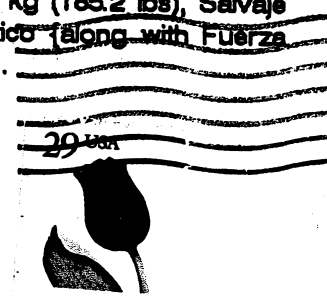
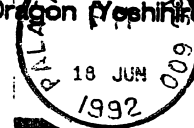
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 17

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